

**Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
BP-America Production Company and Other Operators
Continental Divide-Creston Natural Gas Development Project**

Lead agency: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Project location: Carbon and Sweetwater Counties, Wyoming

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Abstract

The Operators propose to develop gas resources within the 1.1-million-acre Continental Divide-Creston (CD-C) project area located in Carbon and Sweetwater Counties west of Rawlins, Wyoming. The CD-C project is an in-fill project with over 4,700 existing oil and gas wells and associated infrastructure. The Proposed Action would include the development of an additional 8,950 gas wells at down to 40-acre downhole spacing. Construction would begin after the issuance of the Final EIS and Record of Decision and approval of individual Applications for Permit to Drill and/or approved right-of-way grants. Construction would require approximately 15 years. The productive life of the project would extend an estimated 30 to 40 years beyond that.

The Proposed Action and five alternatives were analyzed in detail in this Final EIS. The alternatives are:

- The Proposed Action;
- Alternative B, Enhanced Resource Protection;
- Alternative C, Surface Disturbance Cap—High and Low Density Development Areas;
- Alternative D, Directional Drilling;
- Alternative E, No Action; and
- Alternative F, Agency Preferred Alternative

Alternative A was not carried forward from the Draft EIS to the Final EIS as it did not resolve identified resource conflicts. Under Alternatives B, C, D, and F, the analysis includes impacts produced by development activities on federal, state, and private mineral estate. Alternative E assumes development will occur on federal surface and mineral estate, but only analyzes impacts produced by development activities on state and private mineral estate. In addition to the applicable BLM environmental protection measures listed in Appendix C of the EIS document, mitigation is recommended that would lessen the environmental effects of the proposed project.

Alternative F, the Agency Preferred Alternative, was developed in response to comments received on the Draft EIS that indicated the need for overall reduced surface disturbance, protections for the Muddy Creek watershed, clear and measurable reclamation guidance and criteria, and a CD-C discussion group.

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